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LETTER DATED 24 OCTOBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a letter from Mr. Tofik Casimov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic, which was received by telex.

"Sir,

"I must express my gratitude to you and to the members of the Security Council for the attention they have paid to the process of settling the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

"In continuing the productive dialogue we have established, I wish to inform you of recent events which, in my view, give grounds for optimism with regard to accelerating the settlement process.

"The most important of these is the consent given by Mr. Abulfaz Elchibey, President of the Azerbaijani Republic, to the cessation of hostilities in the region in response to the appeal by the Minsk Group, as indicated in a letter sent to Mr. Mario Rafaelli, President of the Minsk Conference of the CSCE on Nagorno Karabakh. I regard this step as an act of goodwill on the part of Azerbaijan, which has a vital concern in a speedy settlement of the conflict.

"In this connection, mention should be made of the new initiative put forward by Mr. Jack Maresco, United States representative to the talks held under the auspices of the Minsk Group, who recently visited the region and submitted for the consideration of the parties a number of very promising proposals which have the potential for providing new momentum to the settlement process. These proposals are now at the stage of detailed consideration by the Azerbaijani side, and I shall be glad to inform you of the results as soon as it is concluded. I simply wish to point out that the proposals are based on agreements already reached as well as on new approaches.

"I wish to assure you that Azerbaijan, as before, continues to favour the peaceful settlement of the dispute on the basis of the principles laid down by the CSCE. I trust that you will understand the position of the Azerbaijani Republic. I am confident that you share my view on the need to take a carefully weighed and cautious approach to this complex process, which will require some time to work out in order to arrive at an appropriate solution to these problems.

"Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) T. GASIMOV
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Azerbaijani Republic"

I request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative